

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0039] with the following amended paragraph:

[0039] With respect to the indication shown in Figure 5 of providing a colored background 500 to start the Free Play mode, any suitable indication 500 can be utilized in ~~the gaming terminal 1240~~ game display 1240 including a multimedia display presentation including sound, graphics, etc. Furthermore, different internal illumination in the casino game of chance such as change in lighting from fluorescent to UV lighting could be utilized. Any type of visual, audible, and/or a combination of the two could be utilized so that a player at a glance can tell that he/she is in the free play mode.

Please replace paragraph [0043] with the following amended paragraph:

[0043] In Figure 7, a flow chart showing the software functional operation of the present invention programmed into ~~the gaming terminal~~ game control 1210 for the casino game of chance is shown. Conventionally the casino game of chance receives 700 a wager in the gaming terminal 1200. The casino game of chance is played 710 and a game outcome results. Under the teachings of the present invention, in one embodiment, when a message symbol 200 appears, the decision 720 is made to reveal 730 a message 210. In stages 720 and/or 730, the set of values are applied randomly to the remaining symbols in the game outcome. The player inputs a signal that is received 740 by the casino game of chance in the gaming terminal 1200 which then displays 750 the symbol selection to the player. A decision is made 760 whether the displayed symbol selection is an award 310 or a free play 320.

Please replace paragraph [0049] with the following amended paragraph:

[0049] In Figures 9-11 is yet another embodiment of the present invention. Figure 9 sets forth a 3x5 display 900 in the game display 1240 having five reels 10 and three rows 30. This is a conventional 3x5 display for a ~~nine~~ five reel casino slot game of chance wherein each reel 10 visually rotates and then at the game outcome settles on a final display value such as the symbols shown in Figure 9. The 3x5 matrix 900 is visible to a player in the game display

1240 on the gaming terminal 1200. In the example of Figure 9, a message symbol 200 appears in one of the fifteen symbol positions. In this case, it is in one of the three row positions of the fifth reel. As before in Figure 2, the message symbol 200, at the game outcome, converts into an actual message 210 as shown in Figure 3. Behind each of the remaining fourteen symbol positions are hidden multipliers 1000 and a free play 1010. In Figure 10, these are shown in dotted lines but it is to be expressly understood that the player does not see them. What the player sees in Figure 9 are the symbols S with the message symbol 200 converting into a written message 210 telling the player to touch one of the remaining symbol positions.